

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12635 020514Z

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7654

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12635

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NP, MILI

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT BY DY CINCUSARPAC

REF: KATHMANDU 4483

1. THE INDIANS ARE GOING TO BE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF ANY VISIT BY A SENIOR US AREA COMMANDER TO NAPAL. IT WILL APPEAR TO THEM TO SIGNAL A POSSIBLE NEW RELATIONSHIP WHICH EITHER THE US OR THE NAPALESE ARE ATTEMPTING TO FOSTER AND THEY WILL NOTE THAT THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY SUCH CINCPAC OR CINSUSARPAC VISIT IN THE PAST (AT LEAST OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE). THERE IS ENOUGH LATENT SUSPICION IN INDO-NAPALESE (AND INDO-US) RELATIONS WITHOUT OUR ADDING TO IT, UNLESS THERE ARE STRONG SUBSTANTIVE REASONS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE FOR GENERAL WILLIAMS' VISIT. WE DEAL WITH NEPAL AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE AND DO NOT GIVE INDIA A VETO ON WHAT WE DO; WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE INDIANS A VISIT OF A SENIOR US MILITARY OFFICER TO NEPAL IF WE DON'T WANT TO. BUT, FROM OUR POSITION, IT RAISES PROBLEMS WHICH WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID AND SUGGESTS A LEVEL OF US MILITARY INTEREST WHICH, HAS NO BASIS IN FACT.

2. BRIEFLY OUR VIEW IS: (A) WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT WHETHER OUR GENERAL POSTURE TOWARD THIS AREA OF THE WORLD

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WARRANTS A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER'S VISIT TO NEPAL OR FOR

THAT MATTER, INDIA A POSSIBLE VISIT BY COMIDEASTFOR WOULD BE
IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT; (B) WITH INDIAN NERVES CURRENTLY VERY
SENSITIVE ON THE HANCOCK ACTIVITY AND EVENTS IN WEST ASIA,
WE ARE UNABLE TO ASSESS THE EFFECT ON A TRIP TO THIS AREA BY
GENERAL WILLIAMS EARLY NEXT YEAR; (C) A VISIT TO NEPAL MIGHT
AT SAME TIME BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ASSOCIATED VISIT
TO INDIA BUT, AS WE SAID ABOVE THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME TO
CONSIDER THAT; AND (D) WE WILL KEEP THIS SUBJECT UNDER CONTINUING
REVIEW AND INFORM THE DEPARTMENT WHEN OUR JUDGEMENTS CHANGE.
WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF THE CINCPAC STAFF GROUP INCLUDES
KATHMANDU WHEN IT RESCHEDULES ITS VISIT TO SOUTH ASIA.
MOYNIHAN

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